



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 14, 2002

H.R. 3942

John Muir National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 22, 2002

H.R. 3942 would adjust the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site and authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the added 0.2-acre parcel of land by purchase, donation, or exchange. Based on information provided by the NPS, we expect the agency to condemn the small tract to establish its current ownership, which is unknown. Depending on the outcome of the condemnation proceeding, CBO expects that the NPS would then: (1) annex the property without further cost to the government (if no owner is located), (2) accept donation of the tract (if the owner is another government agency), or (3) purchase the property (if a private owner is located). In any event, CBO estimates that the cost of acquiring the property (including legal expenses) would be less than \$50,000, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 3942 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill may contain an intergovernmental or private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the costs of any such mandate would not be significant and would fall well below the thresholds established in UMRA. The thresholds in 2002 are \$58 million and \$115 million per year, respectively, for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates, adjusted annually for inflation.

Because the owner of the 0.2 acres cannot be found, condemnation may be the only course of action for the NPS to gain title. CBO has generally found that when legislation is expected to result in condemnation of property, it contains a mandate. However, because in this case the NPS cannot identify the current owner of the parcel, CBO cannot determine whether this mandate would fall on a government, on the private sector, or on both. In any event, based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the value of the property is less than \$50,000.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact), and Lauren Marks (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.